



Quarterly Report to the Citizens

Letter from the Mayor

Dear Manitou Citizens,

On July 16, I had a most gratifying experience when I attended the dedication of Red Rock Canyon Park. Who says that a small, dedicated core of advocates cannot effectively influence the political leaders as well as the community at large, and accomplish a significant change to a land use plan?

I was sitting in this lovely area looking up at the red rock formations and finally realizing this land will survive for generations to come. People will be able to walk, hike and admire the views and feel the peace and tranquility, and yet be right near both Manitou Springs and Colorado Springs.

The numerous remarks made by guests reminded us of the financial contributions made by numerous grant makers, but also the point was stressed that parks and open space are strong contributors to our economic wellbeing as visitors and residents partake in other activities within our region. Let us think about our own small city and the good fortune of now having two scenic and unusual park sites that are located at our entrance. There are hundreds of acres that include red rocks, hiking trails and picnic areas maintained and open to all of us.

Manitou Springs Open Space Committee was instrumental in initiating the discussions concerning the seven hundred acre acquisition. As our interest grew, the members agreed to contribute a small, but significant amount of money in appreciation of the efforts that the city of Colorado Springs made to acquire the property. Last week, I presented to the council of Colorado Springs, a \$20,000 check as part of a five year commitment of \$50,000. Although our contribution is dwarfed by the \$12,000,000 negotiated sale, I felt that our contribution was an important statement that we made to our neighbor as our many volunteers work together in continuing to make improvements in the new park. Saturday was a very special day for me as mayor and for the environment surrounding our city.

Sincerely,

Marcy Morrison
Mayor

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CITY OF MANITOU SPRINGS

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City Administration

By Verne Witham, *City Administrator*

Let me take a moment and re-introduce myself. My name is Verne Witham, a long time (55 years) resident of Manitou Springs. Without taking a great deal of time, during my younger years after a short term in the U. S. Navy, I was employed by the City of Manitou (7 years) working at one time or the other in every department finishing up as Water Commissioner. In 1971, I took up a career job with the U.S. Army (Ft. Carson) serving as their Fire Chief for 35 years with a very distinguished notoriety, Army wide.

Upon retirement in January 2005, I was offered a position with the City of Manitou Springs as their Interim City Administrator. It was not a situation that I was a stranger to, knowing Manitou for so many years. Many great people live here and it is a town I love and have admiration for. I was, and still am, up for the challenge. Being surrounded by a great cast of supporting people has made the job much easier.

I feel we have accomplished, with the help of our staff, a lot of noteworthy things. Things too numerous to mention have been corrected and progress in other areas is proceeding. Sidewalk repair in commercial areas (Public Services) has been completed and thanks to a grant from FEMA (Fire Dept.), installation of a new E-911 Center is under way with a completion date of mid August.

As of this date I am no longer the Interim City Administrator but will be taking on the City Administrator job until at least January 2006.

Finance Department

By Mike Leslie, *Finance Director*

Economic Performance – January through April Sales Tax

The City, like many municipalities our size, continues to rely on the Colorado Department of Revenue for the collection and disbursement of our local sales taxes. The City experiences a two month lag between the time taxable sales are made and receipt by the City of the associated sales tax revenues because of this transaction. The City Sales taxes collected in the months of February through April were received during

this quarter. The City has collected \$445,487 in sales tax revenues to date reflecting \$11,422,748 in taxable sales for the City from January through April. Taxable sales for the year have increased over those for the same time period last year by 12.7%.

City-Wide Water Meter Replacement Project

The majority of the City's installed water meters are over 20 years old and may be operating beyond their mechanical ability to accurately record water use. Local studies have indicated that as much as 27% of the City's treated water goes unbilled. Late last year the City Council tasked the Manitou Springs Water Conservation Committee to implement a water meter replacement program. On March 10, 2005, the Finance Department, in conjunction with the Manitou Springs Water Conservation Committee, issued a request for proposals for a city-wide water meter replacement program.

Three proposals were received by the Finance Department on the April 1, 2005, deadline. These three proposals ranged in cost from \$303,000 to \$486,000 for the program. The proposals from each vendor included prices for the meters necessary to replace all of the City's meters, prices for meter data collection hardware and software systems, city-wide installation service, and revenue-pledge financing. The Water Conservation Committee reviewed the proposals and recommended to City Council a proposal submitted by Vanguard Utility Service during their regular City Council meeting on May 17, 2005. The Vanguard submission proposed Badger meters, with Itron readers, a mobile interrogation unit and installation for a contract price of \$349,318. Though this was not the apparent low bidder, the Water Conservation Committee and city staff believed that this proposal best met the needs of the City. City Council concurred and authorized the contract with Vanguard Utility Service. (continued on page 3)

To find out what is happening in Manitou Springs you are welcome to attend City Council meetings the first and third Tuesday of every month, beginning at 7 p.m., in Council Chambers, City Hall, 606 Manitou Avenue.

You are also welcome to volunteer in your city government by becoming a member of a board or commission.

Finance Department

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On June 8, 2005, the Finance Department issued a "Request for Financing Proposals" for lease/purchase financing to 8 lending institutions. The Finance Department received proposals offering 31 different financing structures from 4 lending institutions by the deadline on June 24, 2005. On July 5, City Council approved a financing proposal from Municipal Services Group, Inc., which proposed financing of the \$349,318 at 3.610% per annum with terms of 5 years and annual payments with total financing costs of \$25,205. The City-wide Water Meter Replacement Project will begin in August.

Shoshone Spring Demonstration Project / Downtown Revitalization Project

The City's contract with AA Construction Company, Inc. began February 21, for the building of the Shoshone Spring Demonstration Project with construction beginning on that date. On June 24, the City received a letter from Nolte Associates, Inc., the City's design engineer, certifying that the project had been substantially completed. Costs and amounts are currently being reconciled by AA Construction and Nolte Associates, but the City has been informed by Nolte Associates that the project will come in slightly under its \$345,000 construction budget. That construction budget consisted of 80% Federal Transportation Enhancement grant funds. The project still requires inspection by the Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) before it is officially closed.

The City has entered into a contract with CDOT for design phase funding of \$119,000 for the design of Phase Two of the Downtown Revitalization Project. Phase Two will reconstruct sidewalks, place amenities and underground utilities on both sides of Manitou Avenue from a spot just east of Pawnee Avenue to Canon Avenue. The City is currently seeking concurrence from CDOT to award a contract to Nolte Associates for the design.

The City has further applied for two additional Federal Transportation Enhancement grants totaling \$480,000 to enhance the existing granted \$300,000 for the Phase Two construction budget. These grant applications are currently undergoing the award process of the Pikes Peak Area Council of Governments (PPACG). These applications are ranked numbers 1 and 2 of 16 in the PPACG staff scoring process and the deadline for challenge to staff scoring has passed without a change

in the ranking. The applications will be presented to the Transportation Advisory Committee of the PPACG in July and to the PPACG Board for inclusion in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) in August. TIP's will be submitted to CDOT for approval by area council of governments in September. Construction on Phase Two will be scheduled for February 2006 and will be scheduled to avoid conflict with the tourist season.

Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority

Last November the region's voters, including Manitou Springs, approved the establishment of the Pikes Peak Rural Transportation Authority (PPRTA) for the purpose of improving the area's roadways and transit systems. Currently, the City has utilized \$5,000 for repairs to the Manitou Avenue chipseal surface which was damaged during snowplowing over the winter, has scheduled an overlay of Crystal Park Road from Manitou Avenue to Crystal Hills Boulevard, in a partnership with the El Paso County Roads Department at a proposed cost of \$134,138. The City has also forwarded a design contract from Nolte Associates to the PPRTA Board for approval. This contract would design drainage improvements, curb and gutter, pedestrian walkways, and under-grounding of overhead utilities in those areas of Manitou Avenue outside of the Downtown Revitalization Project at a design cost of \$459,326. Construction costs will not be known until design completion but combined costs are anticipated to be below the capital improvements allocation entitled to the City. The City does not intend to expand the 3 lane concept along Manitou Avenue from those areas currently configured in that manner.

GASB34

The City converted its FY2004 financial statements to the standard dictated by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board's proclamation number 34 (GASB34). One of the major requirements of GASB34 is the reporting of depreciation on general government infrastructure assets by function. The City's auditors, Jaspers + Hall, P.C. have been working closely with the City since the beginning of the year towards this conversion. On June 7, Jaspers + Hall, P.C. presented their audit of the City's FY2004 financial statements to the Manitou Springs City Council. Jaspers + Hall P.C.

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Fire Department

By Keith Buckmiller, *Fire Chief*

Greetings and welcome to summer 2005. We hope you enjoyed the fireworks on the 4th of July. I found it to be the best show yet. Weather conditions the night of the Fourth were perfect, with the afternoon rains and high humidity each of the days leading up to the demonstration. I hope we have similar conditions for the fireworks scheduled for the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Pikes Peak Marathon in August. This year's demonstration was made possible because of your firefighters. The focus of the spectators was on the display so the focus of this forum will be on the people behind the fireworks demonstration.

First and foremost is the person responsible for quenching any fires on the mountainside, Brad Doris, who joined our organization February 2003. He is the paid Fire Driver/Engineer EMT-Basic who is normally responsible for answering the calls for help in Manitou Springs as well as other day-to-day activities on the C-Shift duty days. He is also responsible for coordinating the training and certification of our volunteer firefighters and maintaining our readiness to offer assistance on a federal wildland incident.

Brad directed the efforts of two separate crews on the mountainside. One team was led by Chi Kranz who is the other C-Shift paid Fire Driver/Engineer. She functioned as squad boss trainee under the supervision of Brandi Doris. The second team was led by Bobby White, who like Brandi, is an El Paso County Wildland Firefighter. They are not part of our fire department but volunteered their services to us as though they were. Our members Angela Rocco and Andre Fiedler, along

with our Crystal Park Metro District firefighter John Hennessey and Colorado Springs Fire Paramedic, Tim Kranz, completed the teams and were the firefighters on the mountain.

John Nichols directed the efforts of the pyrotechnicians on the launching platform. John was responsible for keeping the other pyrotechnicians safe in a very hazardous situation. He was assisted by Brad Walters, David Combs, Josh Mull, Kelly McMinn, Kris McMinn, Charles McAlexander, Matthew Horton, and Ed Sacao.

The fireworks were supported by many of our Manitou Merchants and by you the spectators. The donations gathered this year equate to the total amount spent on next year's event. Thanks to all the people who made this event possible!

Secondly, your Fire Department is working with the United States Forest Service (USFS) on the wildland fire in Westmore. They requested our service on July 8. We sent our brush engine and three people to assist with that effort. Initially, we were coupled up with Colorado Springs as a Task Force which means five or more companies of differing uses and capabilities, (i.e. structure engines, brush trucks, water tenders, aerial trucks, etc.). Fort Carson joined this task force as our compliment to the task force. Colorado Springs supplied the structure engines and were demobilized on Saturday night after the threat to homes was downgraded. Manitou Springs and Fort Carson Fire Departments remained in the operation since their capabilities are still in greatest demand. Both have been working side-by-side trying to help the USFS extinguish the fire.

City Telephone Numbers

New Web Address.....	www.manitousprings-co.gov
Accounts Payable	685-2565
Administration	685-5596
City Clerk.....	685-2554
Code Enforcement.....	685-2543
Finance Department	685-5481
Fire Dept. (non emergency).....	685-1444

Hall Rental Information.....	685-2565
Library	685-5206
Planning Department.....	685-4398
Police Dept. (non emergency)	685-5407
Public Services.....	685-2573
Swimming Pool.....	685-9735
Water Billing.....	685-2579

Finance Department

(continued from Page 3)

rendered a favorable opinion of the City's financials stating that their audit revealed sound accounting practices and clean financial records.

Since the presentation of the audited FY2004 financial statements, the Finance Department has been working to reconcile the actual FY2004 budget and FY2005 budgets to the audit results. The Finance Department will be presenting an Audit-Adjusted FY2004 and Mid-Year FY2005 Budget to City Council during work-session on July 12, 2005. City Council may approve a mid-year amendment of the FY2005 budget in its regular meetings in July and August.

A Day In The Life Of A City Employee

A few years ago, I was working as a police dispatcher. I received a call from a frantic female, that I will call Mary, (not her real name) who stated that her neighbors had a rabid skunk in their basement. When I asked why she thought there was a rabid skunk in her neighbor's basement, the female caller stated, "Because, I saw a skunk by their window yesterday and it appeared to be sick and today I don't see the skunk and my neighbor's basement window is open."

I advised the female caller that I did not have any officers available because they were on a priority call. I asked her if she could go to her neighbor's house and tell them of her concerns. She told me she could not do that because she did not know her neighbors. I told her that this would be a good time to go over and introduce herself to them. The female caller became very defensive and said "I can't go over there for that. My neighbors will think I am crazy." I told her it would be a little while before I could send an officer because of the limited number of officers on duty and the priority call they were currently on. The female caller became upset and yelled over the phone, "I hope nobody dies at that house because you won't send anyone" and then she hung up. I was not able to send an officer to that house that night, but to this day, no citizen of Manitou Springs has ever died as a result of a rabid skunk.

Dr. Bell's Story of Manitou

I was asked a few days ago to give this meeting a short history of the early days of Manitou - to throw my mind back to the bright days of early manhood when everything was seen clour de rose, and when we had boundless hope in the future and expected that great things would be accomplished in a very short time. I must say that this is a pleasant task; but to give some idea of the valley of Manitou in the earliest time of which we have any knowledge, reference must be made to the delightful book of travels by Ruxton. It is probably in this library and no doubt has been read by most of you. He was, indeed, a wonderful traveler. In it he described his journey from the City of Mexico, all along the great plateau of the continent northward, through Chihuahua and New Mexico to Pueblo, up the Fontaine, and finally to the soda springs of what is now Manitou. There he camped and shot buffalo, elk, Mountain sheep, black tailed deer and all the wild animals of the country as they came down to lick the saline deposits around the spring. And here, he says, he might have remained all the rest of his live, so beautiful and attractive were the surroundings, had not the Indians burned him out. But as Ruxton's story is doubtless familiar to most of you, I must now pass on to personal reminiscences.

I well remember the day about 1868 when General Palmer and myself first passed up that valley. There was only a cattle trail leading through endless shrubbery up to and around the soda springs. At the springs was a hut inhabited by a man who was generally known as "the hermit," and who had camped there for many years. The big basin of the main spring was a beautiful sight. It looked like a natural bath, and a splendid bath it was. We jumped into it and thoroughly enjoyed it. The immense escape of gas produced a novel and most invigorating sensation. It caught you in the small of the back and lifted you up with great force; and the action of the gas on the skin was similar to that of the gas on the throat as you drink it. It was very stimulating and you rapidly became as red as a lobster.

The valley although thickly covered in underbrush, has few large trees because the forest fires had evidently frequently swept through it. Indeed, there was not nearly so much foliage in those days as there is now, for time and protection has allowed the native trees to grow large, as well as those which were subsequently planted.

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Planning Department

By Todd Liming, *Planning Director*

The Planning Department experienced its busiest quarter in the past five years.

Zoning Code Revisions – City Council will continue to review a major update of the Zoning Code over the next several weeks. This follows a comprehensive evaluation of the development codes by HB&A planning consultants last fall and the City Council's prioritization of the first four code revision projects. HB&A was also contracted to work with Planning Staff on the first phase project – the revision of development standards and intent statements. Fortunately, the first phase draft revisions are considerably more comprehensive than originally contemplated. Consequently, the City may have in place a significantly upgraded Zoning Code by the end of this summer. The second phase of the Zoning Code revision project is anticipated to begin shortly and will be focusing on the public process.

Code Enforcement – Over the past quarter, the Code Enforcement Officer has handled 188 matters. These include numerous junk vehicles, trash/debris removal, business licenses (and renewals), permits/inspections, sign issues, loose/vicious animals, and several other emergency or miscellaneous assistance items. This past quarter, over 80% of the enforcement matters were initiated by the Code Enforcement Officer or from the reports of other city employees.

Building Permits -- The Planning Department's review of building permit applications has continued at a very strong pace. Through mid-July, we have issued a total of 172 building permit applications. These permits involve nearly \$280,000 in the cost of materials and over \$15,000 in use tax collections. So far this year, we are approximately 10% ahead of our building permit pace for the same point last year - which ended up as our second busiest on record.

Historic Plaque Program – Planning Staff is pleased to report that the historic plaques have been installed except for the plaque at Shoshone Springs Plaza which will be installed very soon. This is the culmination of 4-5 years of hard work by the Historic Preservation Commission and Michelle Anthony of the Planning Department. The plaques seem to be popular. Erik Bondurant, our intern, helped prepare a walking tour brochure and copies are available here in the Planning Department and can also be downloaded as a PDF file from the Manitou Springs website.

Development Review – We are currently experiencing unprecedented interest in development and redevelopment throughout the City. We attribute this interest to several factors: (a) several on-going development projects, (b) the downtown streetscape project and (c) the anticipated Zoning Code revisions. We currently anticipate applications for up to 200 new dwelling units, 2 or 3 motel redevelopment projects as well as the Spa Building renovations.

City Intern – The Planning Department continues to be fortunate to have the volunteer assistance of Erik Bondurant as an intern. He has volunteered to work on a wide variety of projects, including the Historic Plaque Walking Tour brochure (see above), Open Space and Historic District mapping needs, our 1st and 2nd Quarterly Newsletters for 2005, the update of our Historic Preservation Handbook and various GIS projects for the Planning and Administration Departments.

Story of Manitou

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When the Denver and Rio Grande railroad was fairly started through the efforts of our friend General Palmer, from whom we have heard so much of interest, we looked up these soda springs as a great source of attraction, and, learning that the land was owned by some parties in the east, we took steps to purchase the 640 acres, for which we paid \$30,000. The next step was to give the valley a name, and the first name that was chosen was not a happy one. The place was called La Font and the last relic of that name which I can remember was on the signboard of a livery stable here at Colorado Springs. For many years it was known as the La Font livery stable here at Colorado Springs; I have no doubt that most of those who read the signboard had not the slightest idea to what the name referred. Finding that La Font was not satisfactory, and becoming better acquainted with the writings of Ruxton, we chose the name which he told us the Indians had given to the spirit of the springs, namely, Manitou. In this he may have borrowed an idea from Longfellow.

We then laid out the town site in accordance with the views we had as to the future of the place. The
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Public Library

By Jan Pratt, *Library Director*

The summer Reading program “Dragons Dreams and Daring Deeds” kicked off in June and is proving to be a great success. There are still great opportunities for students to get involved in programs this summer and to earn their free book.



Volunteers in the magic show.

Some programs specifically offered for teens will be held on:

July 26: Pool Party at the Manitou Springs Pool. Any student who has attended at least one program is invited to swim from 3-4:30.

Programs for other younger students are:

July 22 at 11 am- Medieval Fair: hear live music, eat with your hands and see a sword fight demonstration.

July 29 at 11 am- Pool Party at the Manitou Springs Public Pool.

Students may also visit the Manitou Springs Elementary School Library, Tuesday through Friday, 12 pm-3 pm during July for games, crafts and book discussion groups.

All programs are free. For more information please call the Library at 685-5206.

As the school year approaches the Library will be looking for volunteers to help with the Reading Friends and the Peak Reader programs. If you would like to spend an hour per week reading with a student, please call the Library and sign up for our volunteer

training session. This is a great opportunity to connect with a young person and help to pass on a love of reading. Volunteers must be 14 years of age or older. This program will run throughout the school year.

Also beginning in September will be the kick-off meetings for the Library’s book discussion groups. The fiction group will meet on September 7, at 7 pm and the Non-Fiction Group will meet on September 19, at 7 pm. This is a great opportunity to meet new friends, read new books and discuss your ideas. These kick off meetings will serve to select the books for discussion for the next year so please come out and help us develop a dynamite year of discussion topics.

The Library, as always, welcomes your suggestions regarding programs and service. Feel free to drop off your suggestions or to call the Library at 685-5206 to talk with a staff member. If you are new to library services in Manitou Springs, we welcome you to stop by the Library and sign up for a library card and learn about the many services we can provide.



Families enjoy the kick off to the summer reading program with Annie Belle the clown, food and a magic show!

Police Department

By MaryJo Smith, *Police Chief*

The Police Department along with the Manitou Springs City Council is committed to resolving community issues. There are many issues that have been discussed including the skateboard park, skateboarding in the downtown area and in city parks. The other issue is dogs running loose in the parks, at events in the city, and in neighborhoods. Please read further as we have put together information on the laws regarding both.

Skateboard Laws:

There is a skateboard park that is located on the northeast side of Manitou Springs at “The Fields Park.” It is at the intersections of Beckers Lane and El Paso Boulevard. The skateboard park does have rules and regulations that are posted at the park. What can we do to make sure that the children in the community follow the rules? It takes responsibility by the children, parental guidance, police enforcement, and neighborhood participation. We want to see the children enjoy the facility. Public Services has dealt with trash issues, graffiti, and damage to the restroom facility. We ask if you see any type of mischief, that you contact the Manitou Springs Police Department and report it. We appreciate extra eyes in the community.

The Manitou Springs City Council is working on a possible ordinance change regarding helmets being required in the skateboard facility. Helmets are still required and are mandatory for users of the skateboard park. Officers were spending a great deal of time enforcing the mandatory helmet law. The City Council is checking with other cities that changed the helmet requirement. The issue was tabled until the next regular City Council meeting on July 19, 2005.

Bicycles and scooters are not permitted in the bowl of the skateboard facility at any time.

The use of tobacco is prohibited on or around the skateboard facility.

Officers are asked, “Where can we use our skateboards?” This questions leads to another ordinance. **10.04.065 section 17-18 (a) Wheeled vehicles on sidewalks or in parks.** No person shall ride a bicycle, scooter, skateboard or similar wheeled device on the sidewalks of the *business district*, or concrete areas of Schryver Park, Soda

Springs Park, Seven Minute Springs Park, or Mansions Park, or on the sidewalk adjacent to said parks, or on the parking lot adjacent to Mansions Park. The fine is \$85.00.

The **business district** is defined as follows:

1. The south side of Manitou Avenue from South Path to Waltham Avenue and the north side of Manitou Avenue from the intersection of Waltham Avenue to El Paso Boulevard.
2. Both sides of Canon Avenue between Manitou Avenue and Grand Avenue.
3. All of Park Avenue.
4. Both sides of Ruxton Avenue between Manitou Avenue and Osage Avenue.

The Police Department will be strict on skateboarding in the business district. There are many citizens, tourists, elderly citizens walking, shopping, and sight seeing. We have had complaints that skateboarders could knock someone over, as they whiz by on their skateboards. The skateboarders should carry their skateboards in the downtown business district. They should be courteous of others, especially the elderly and small children that may not be able to get out of the way of unsuspecting skateboarders. We appreciate business owners getting involved, and calling the police. We want to make the downtown area an enjoyable place, especially with the new redevelopment.

We were asked about using skateboards on the roadways. Is it permitted? No. There is a state statute 42-4-109 (4) and a municipal traffic ordinance 10.04.010 (109) titled **Motorized bicycles-animals, skis, skates, and toy vehicles on highways.** This statute prohibits all of the items mentioned on a roadway.

Dogs At Large:

Everybody loves their dogs. But, we would like to see people be responsible for their dogs. This means not leaving them in a hot car on a hot day, with no water and the windows closed. This means keeping your dog on a leash, especially on city streets, in the parks and during events. It also means cleaning up after your dog. There seems to be a misconception about dogs being permitted to run loose in the city parks.

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Swimming Pool

Jackie Clark, *Aquatic Director*

It is hard to believe that six months have flown by in 2005 already. Time really does fly when you are having fun! These six months continue to be amazing for the swimming pool. A ton of activities and action have taken place at the pool and it looks like a lot more to come.

Punch Card Sales: Jan.-June 2005	463 punch cards
Membership Sales: Jan.-June 2005	45 memberships
Pool Usage: Jan.-June 2005	17,087 people
Swim Lessons: June 2005	1,193 lessons
Private Parties in June 2005	9 parties

2005 has shown to be another year of construction and giving the pool a facelift. High West Siding and Windows installed the three windows above the pool area. They have a great look and it is sealing in the heat in the pool area.

The weight room/sunroom is underway. The pool was hoping to have it completed by June 1, 2005, but that has not happened. I guess you cannot conquer Rome in a day! Now we are shooting for July 20, 2005. The weight equipment has been ordered and is in Colorado Springs waiting for delivery. An open house will be planned when the project is finished.

The dedication for the Big Kahuna Playground in Schryver Park had its dedication on June 28, 2005. GOCO-Great Outdoors Colorado awarded the Manitou Pool the grant for this project. Betsy Miller was kind enough to write the grant with advice from the PARAB board. The Public Services Department did a great job taking down the old playground equipment. Miracle Playground Equipment put the new playground equipment in and Discount Concrete poured new concrete for the playground area. New benches and a new picnic table were installed by Public Services. A big round of applause to all that played an active part in acquiring and installing this wonderful equipment. Without all of you, this project could not have been accomplished. It truly was a group effort by PARAB, GOCO, City Staff, City Council, Preschool In The Pines Preschool; Green-shades Preschool, State Representative Michael Merri-field, and County Commissioner Sallie Clark. Thank you, for making all of this possible.

We welcome all to come and see the action at the pool and meet the outstanding staff that makes this all possible. It's full steam ahead for the Manitou Pool!



The Big Kahuna Playground in Schryver opens.



Public Services

By Kelly McMinn, *Public Services Director*

Noxious weeds are an ecological and agricultural disaster for Colorado. One thing that people new to our area tend to do is bring new plants and flowers with them from other parts of the country, or from other countries as well. Unfortunately, most people do not realize that they may be harming our Colorado ecosystem. Non-native, aggressive weeds quickly escape and begin crowding out our native plant communities. A major problem in getting people to understand this is the misconception that something attractive can't be a weed. The reality is that invasive, ornamental weeds like Myrtle Spurge, Russian Olive, and Bouncingbet have proven to be ecologically damaging and difficult to control, once they start invading our native landscapes.

The Colorado Department of Agriculture has developed rules pertaining to the administration and enforcement of the Colorado Noxious Weed Act. These can be seen on State of Colorado's web site, www.cdphe.state.co.us. There are three classes of noxious weeds according to the state, the first, the "A" list comprises of some 18 or so species, among them are the Myrtle Spurge and the Purple Loosestrife. Myrtle Spurge, in addition to being hardy and invasive, gives off a toxic, milky sap, which can cause severe skin irritation. Anyone trying to remove Myrtle Spurge from their gardens should wear gloves and long sleeves, as all parts of the plant are considered poisonous. Spurge reproduces only by seed and can project its seed 15 or more feet. The seeds themselves can remain viable for eight or more years.

Purple Loosestrife, while not as toxic as Myrtle Spurge, is every bit as invasive and probably more attractive. Loosestrife can reproduce by seed, or roots, or any fragment of stem, making it particularly hard to get rid of, since almost any part remaining of the plant can grow into another plant. Loosestrife seed longevity is at least ten years. According to the State of Colorado:

1. The plants of every population of list "A" species must be eradicated prior to seed development.
2. Once all mature plants are eliminated, appropriate efforts must be made to detect and eliminate new plants arising from seed, reproductive propagule, or rootstock for the duration of the seed longevity for the particular species.
3. In order to ensure that seeds or other reproductive propagules are not produced or spread, any plant with flowers, seeds or other propagules must be placed in sealed plastic bags and disposed of by: high intensity burning in a controlled environment that completely destroys seed viability, removal of plant materials to a solid waste landfill which covers waste daily or any other method approved of by the commissioner.

The list "B" plants include some common plants seen in our area such as; Absinth Wormwood (used to make the illegal alcoholic drink, Absinth), Oxeye Daisy (a pretty little daisy type flower), Canada Thistle (a common nasty weed), Russian Olive (long used as a drought tolerant landscape tree) and Yellow Toadflax
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Toad Flax, a noxious weed.



Myrtle Spurge, a noxious weed.

Public Services

(many people call this a “wild snapdragon”). List “B” plants are under study by the state as to the best means of control, but are not as yet under the “remove or destroy immediately” mandate of the list “A” plants. Look for the Absinth, Chinese Clematis, Orange Hawkseed, and Plumeless Thistle to make the “A” list soon.

The list “C” plants include such things as Chicory, Burdock, St. Johnswort, and Proso Millet (birdseed). List “C” plants are not under any control mandate but are under study to provide educational, research, and biological control measures to “jurisdictions that choose to require management of list “C” species.” More information on noxious weeds is available through state and county web sites and our county extension office at www.cwma.org. Also remember Manitou Springs has a watershed protection ordinance that limits certain herbicide uses and amounts, so please use caution with any herbicide use.



Bouncingbet, a noxious weed.

Story of Manitou

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streets and roads were adapted to the contour of the ground; the lots were made of large size and were of necessity irregular, and were mostly intended for villa sites. At that time the present city of Colorado Springs was a treeless and bare waste of plain and was not attractive. In the valley through which the Fountain flows we pictured with the eye of the future lovely villas surrounded by mountains and greenery. That portion of the town site which was allotted for business purposes was inconspicuous and so far removed from the present business center

of town as to be almost laughable as reminiscences of the past.

There was of course in those days no railroad to Manitou. In 1872, we erected the Manitou House, and it was opened about the middle of August. In 1875 we added “The Mansions.” During the winter of 1872-73 Mrs. Bell and myself stopped at the Manitou House while we built our own residence. Ours was not the first house erected in the place, for a Mr. Pine had already purchased the first lot and put up a very attractive cottage on the present site of the Barker house, indeed, I should not be surprised if the Pine cottage still formed part of that extensive establishment, although more recent additions have rendered it unrecognizable. This lot was deeded July 15, 1872; I received mine on August 29 following.

The financial crisis, which was felt so severely during 1874 and 1875 was a great blow to Manitou, which had at once become very popular with the traveling public, and was at once patronized by the best people from Boston, Philadelphia and New York. It was found expensive to live there because everything had to be brought from the railway station at Colorado Springs. But a few lots were sold, and those that were sold instead of being used for the erection of beautiful villas, were cut up into parcels and re-sold for the erection of little stores and cottages, so that by 1880 much of the primitive beauty of Manitou had disappeared and been replaced by poor and unsightly structures, very different from those castles in the air which we imagined in our minds eye would be visible in the near future. In this year, however, the railroad was extended to Manitou, and in 1881, a very handsome station was erected there.

We are certainly very much indebted to the Denver and Rio Grande railway for the perseverance in keeping the depot and its surroundings in such beautiful order as they have continued to do year by year down to the present time. The flowers and creepers and the grassy sward with the picturesque depot in the center have been and are most charming to look upon.

Gradually the residents of Manitou began to realize what a great opportunity there was in the broken hillsides and the glorious surroundings of mountain and dale for picturesque embellishment, and making use of the abundance of good building stone which can be easily obtained there, they commenced to terrace the

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hillsides, and with an abundance of water to cultivate lawns and shrubbery, to plant trees and care for them, and to carry irrigating canals wherever they were needed, and I must say inasmuch as the residents of Manitou are for the most part not bountifully supplied with the sinews of war, they have done wonders to obliterate the unsightliness of former days and to work up to such a high standard of excellence and beauty.

There are few better opportunities for producing the most pleasing effects than to introduce careful cultivation amongst the rugged surroundings on the mountain base. Those who have visited Glen Eyrie can see this contract to perfection and cannot fail to be deeply impressed by it, and in this we have the key to the possibilities of Manitou in the future; and nothing can have a more patent influence on such progress as the formation of a society such as that at whose meeting I have the privilege of being present. Furthermore, Manitou and Colorado Springs are so different in their surroundings and demand such different treatment that they may well furnish a very interesting contrast in respect to their adornment. In both there are exceptional opportunities for the display of thoughtful and well-considered good taste.

I must not conclude without confirming Mr. Parson's conclusions that the American elm stands first amongst the trees to be desired for street planting in this country. I would also add as a very desirable tree the Wisconsin weeping willow. No one who has seen it on the Hudson grow to enormous proportions, and form as it does there, stately avenues, can fail to recognize the grandeur of this tree. It does not weep until it reaches a considerable size, and judging from its growth in the east it would seem to me to be a very much longer lived tree than might usually be expected from its rapid growth.

One difficulty that the planter of trees along the main thoroughfares has to contend against is the telegraph, telephone and electric wires. The poles for these wires are placed along the tree line, and as soon as the tree shows vigor and has reached a reasonable size, it is usually hacked and cut to prevent it from interfering with the wires. Under these circumstances a tree of lesser growth is often to be desired, and for this purpose I take this opportunity of recommending the pink flowering locust, which is indigenous to this country. In the valley of the Cuchara in the southern part of the state all around the little town of La Veta, there are immense

groves of this locust. I have been able to obtain from time to time large numbers of them at very small cost and have planted them with success in various places all over Manitou. This locust bears grief, as they say in the country, better than almost any tree that I know of. It will live for a long time without water and it will bear a great quantity of water with equal indifference. If it is planted by the side of the stream, wherever the roots become exposed it throws up shoots, which shoots help to keep the bank in place. It would, doubtless, be an excellent tree to plant along the side of Monument down in the bottom land in that part of Colorado Springs which General Palmer considers so desirable to be set apart for park purposes.

With respect to the best form of irrigating ditch I also concur with the general opinion of this meeting that the cobble stone ditch is by far the best, although the labor connected with it may make it rather costly.

Thanking you for your patient hearing, I will not oc-

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7.08.030 Dog at large

This leads to the next ordinance. It shall be the duty of any person, as owner or keeper of a dog, to keep the dog under physical restraint to prevent such dog from being a danger to persons or property or trespassing upon the property of another without the permission of the owner or person in control of such property. Further, it is unlawful for any person as owner or keeper of any dog to fail to have the dog under physical restraint (this means restrained by a leash, cord or chain, none of which is longer than ten feet) upon any public property within the city. You cannot just carry the leash in your hand as a dog owner/keeper. It must be attached to the dog. Dogs are not permitted to run loose, chase Frisbees, have balls or sticks thrown in any city park. Dogs are not permitted to be loose and swim in the pond at Schryver Park. If your dog is found to be at large, there is a fine of \$55.00 for the first offense, \$105.00 for the second offense, and any subsequent offense, there is a fine of \$155.00.

7.04.095 Hitching animals.

It is unlawful for any person to hitch or fasten any

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animal to any railing, tree, shrub, fence, or other object anywhere within the City in such manner as to permit the animal access to a public sidewalk.

Dog Licensing:

If you are a dog owner, you are required to have current rabies tags, and a City of Manitou Springs dog license. A dog license may be purchased at City Hall in the Finance Department. If your dog should get loose, and it has a city tag*, the officers can attempt to contact you to come and pick up your dog, otherwise the dog is transported to the Humane Society. The cost for licensing is as follows:

Spayed female: \$8.00
Female: \$20.00
Neutered male: \$8.00
Male: \$20.00

Replacement for a lost tag is \$5.00

* City dog licenses are good for one year beginning in January 1 through December 31.

Exercising Your Dog:

The City of Manitou Springs does not have a park that is designated or posted as a voice control park. The closest dog park to Manitou Springs is on 21st Street in Colorado Springs at Bear Creek Park. This park also has rules and regulations that are enforced, so, if you go, make sure you read the rules.

The Manitou Springs Police Department would like for all of you, whether you are a resident or a tourist visiting our area, to have a great summer! We appreciate your cooperation.